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COMICS



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EXCALIBUR

ALTHOUGH THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE, THE EDITOR IN CHIEF THOUGHT IT WAS ADVISABLE TO WARN THAT SOME OF THE MATERIAL INSIDE MAY BE OFFENSIVE TO NATIVES OF ALPHA CENTAURI.



MARK DAVIS
MARK FARMER

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE SWASHBUCKLING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKNEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS. THEY HAVE BANNED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...

HOME COMFORTS

OR WHO EXPLODED THE TOILET?

ALAN DAVIS, WRITER/PENCILER
MARK FARMER, INKER
MICHAEL HEISLER, LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST
TERRY KAVANAGH, EDITOR
TOM DEFAUCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF
EXCALIBUR CREATED BY
CHRIS CLAREMONT AND ALAN DAVIS

EXCALIBUR



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MEGGAN...

OH, MEGGAN.



OH, MEGGAN!?



I KNEW YOU WERE
UP TO NO GOOD--YOU
SNAKE--ALWAYS HANG-
ING ROUND MEGGAN.

WEEK!!

OH SO HELPFUL
AND UNDERSTANDING--
OOZING TEUTONIC
CHARM--

HAB?

--WELL YOU
NEVER FOOLED
ME!



ARE YOU
MAD? I WAS
ASLEEP...

BAMF



YES, AND
YOUR DREAMS
BETRAYED
YOU.

WHAT
THE DEVIL IS
GOING ON?!



THAT'S
WHAT I'M
TRYING
TO FIND
OUT.

CALM DOWN,
BRIAN.



CALM?!

I WAS CALM
WHEN YOU INVITED
THE TECHNET TO
MOVE INTO MY
LIGHTHOUSE.

I'VE STAYED CALM
THROUGH SIX DAYS OF
INCESSANT NOISE AND
CHAOS AS THOSE LUNA-
TIC ALIENS REPAIR
THE DAMAGE THEIR
BOMB CAUSED.

I'VE BEEN CALMNESS
PERSONIFIED, SITTING HERE--
IN THE SANCTUARY OF MY IM-
PROVED SLEEPING QUARTERS
--QUIETLY TRYING TO READ
MY BOOK.

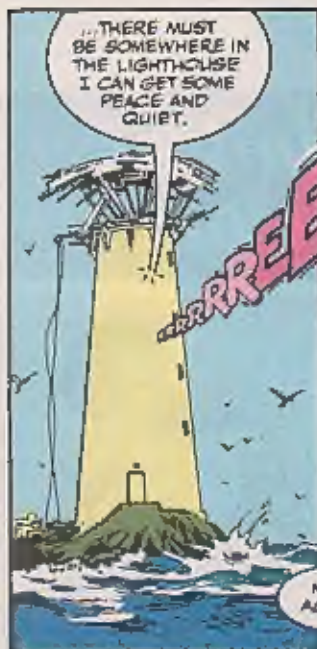


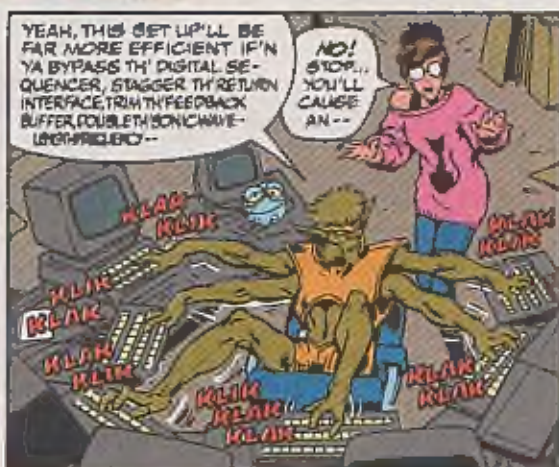
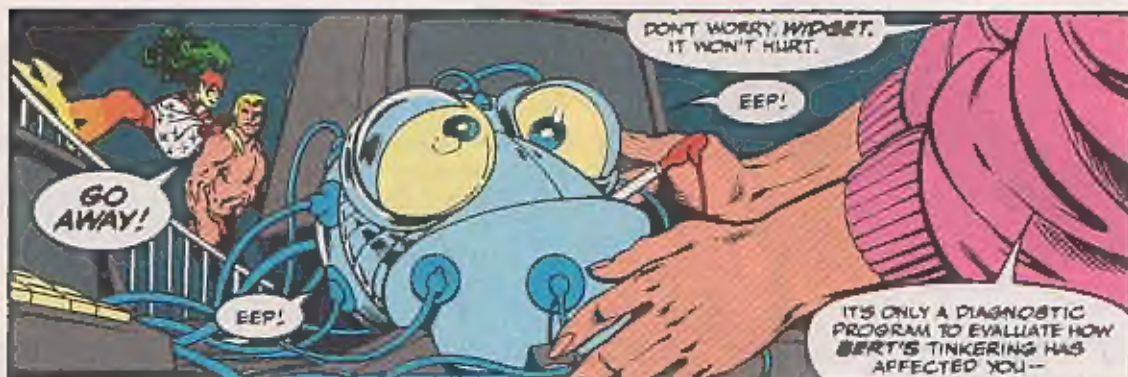
THEN, MR. NIGHT-CREEPER
STARTED TALKING IN HIS SLEEP,
CALLING OUT MEGGAN'S
NAME.

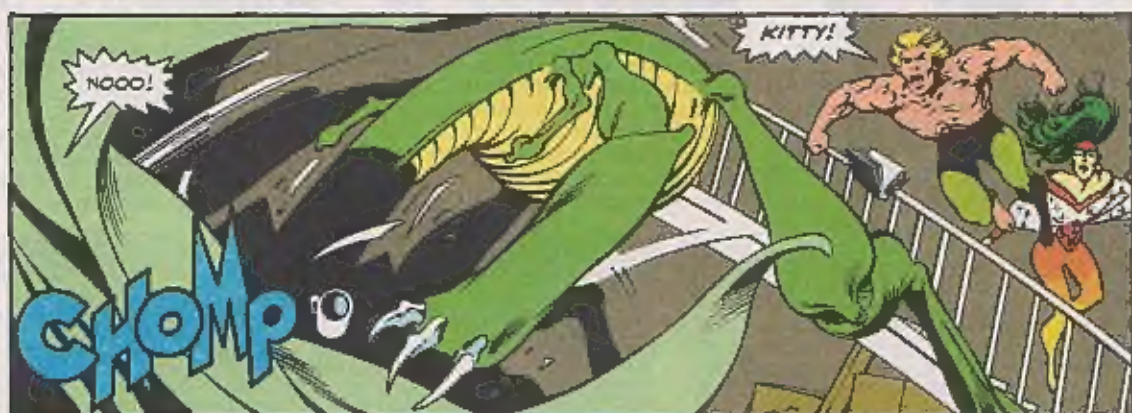
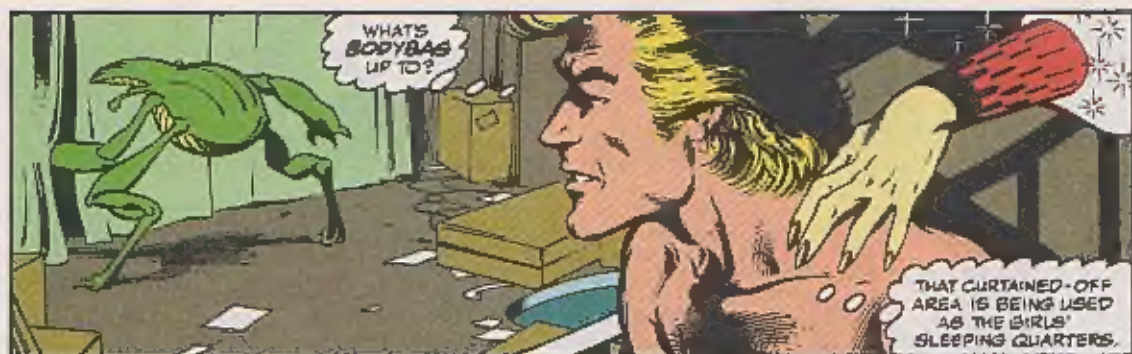
IT'S
OBVIOUS
WHAT'S BEEN
GOING ON...

...ISN'T
IT?!

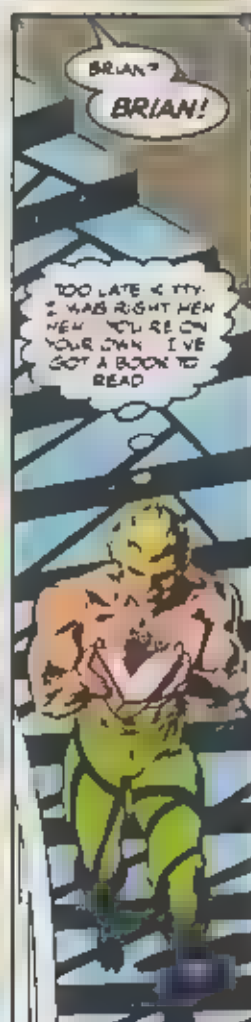
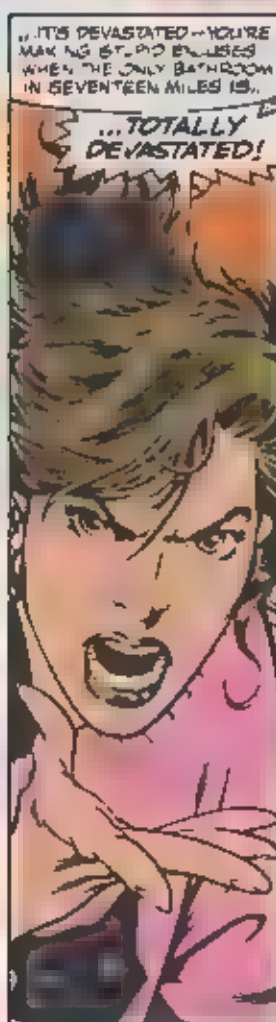
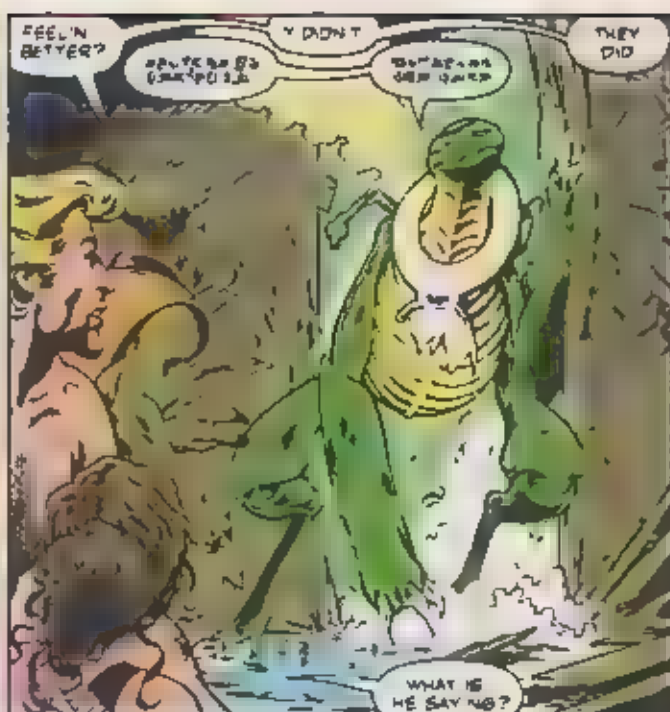


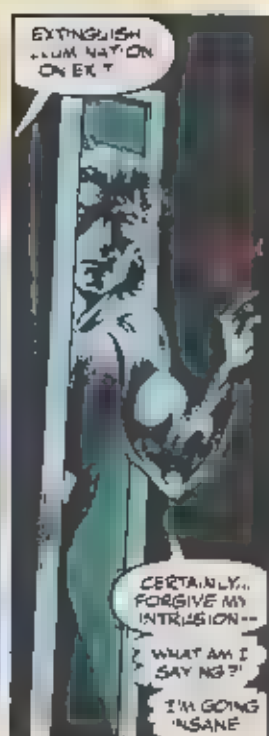
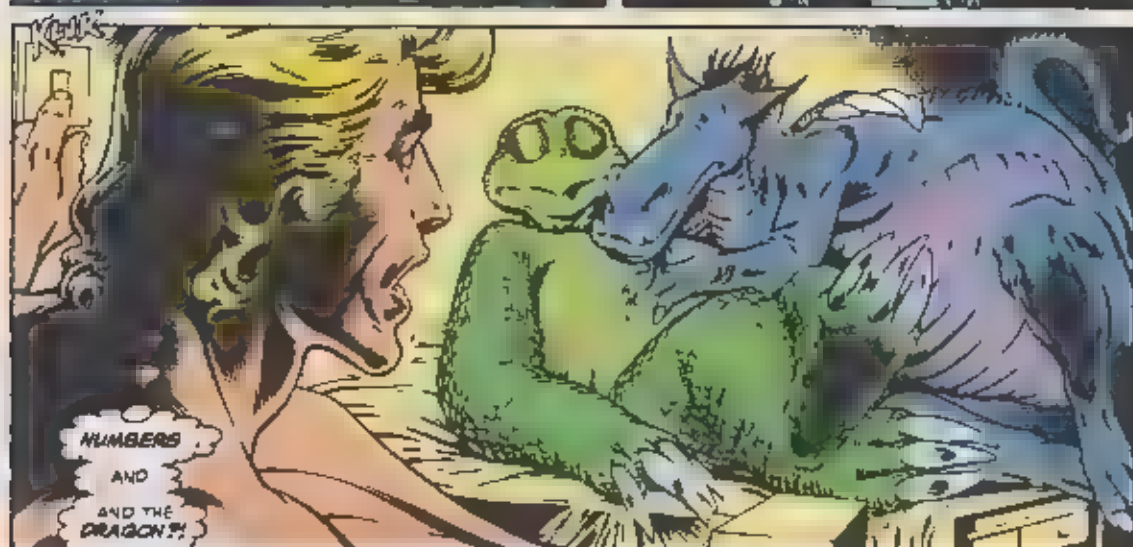
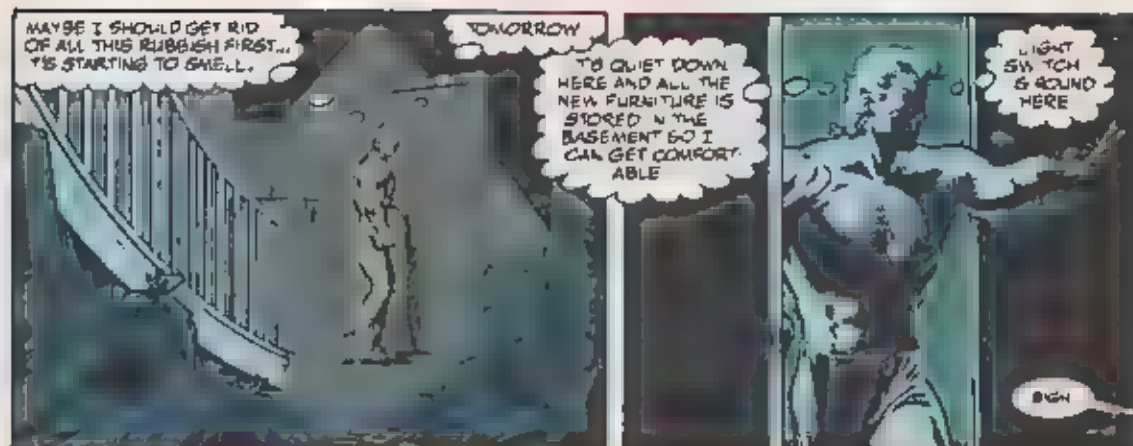


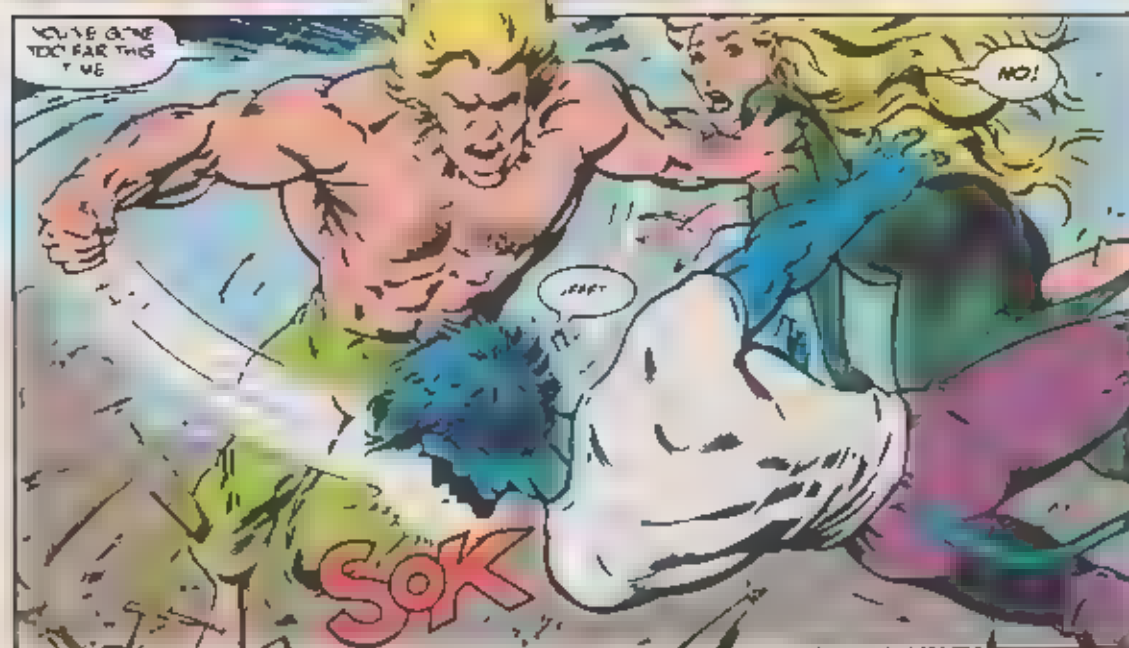
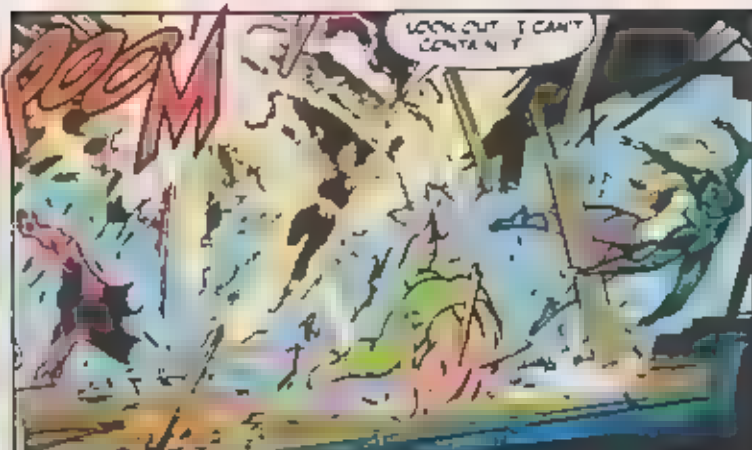


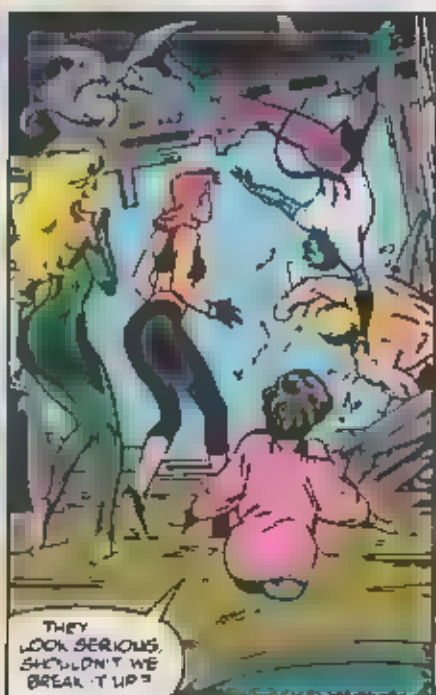
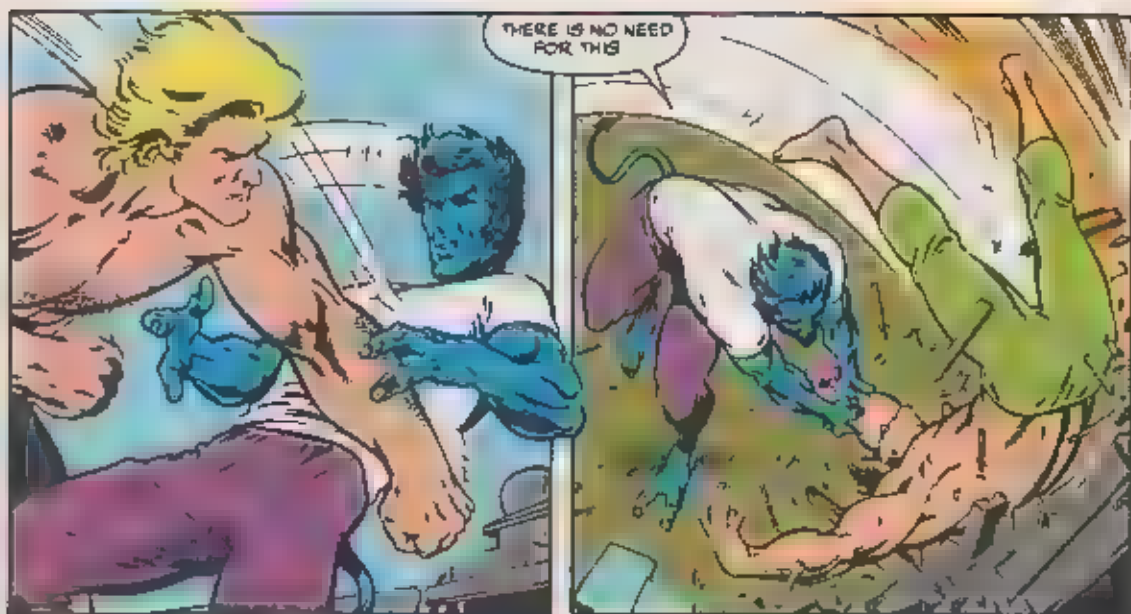


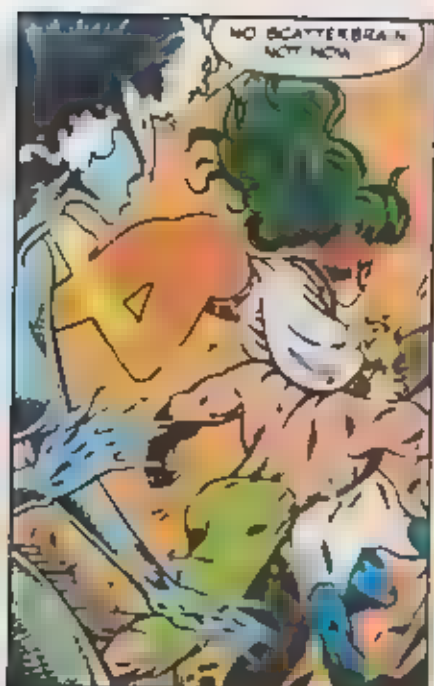


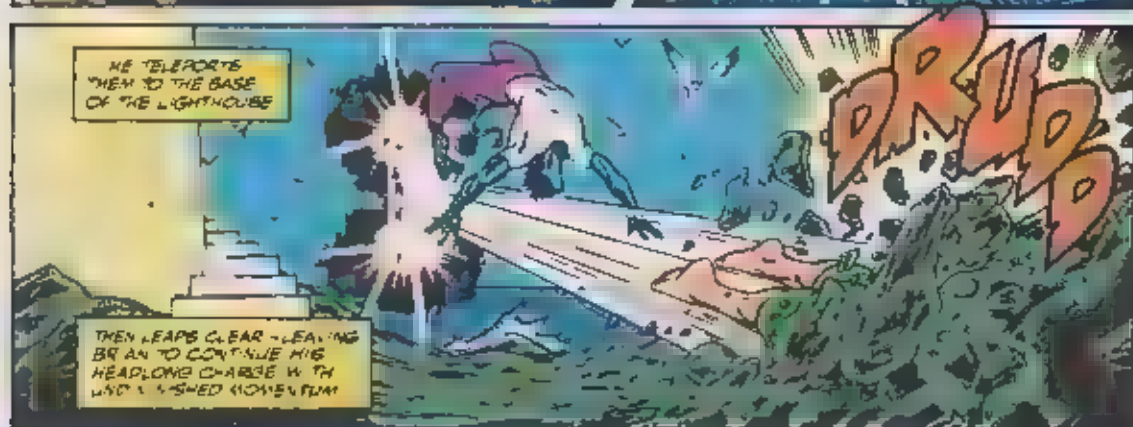
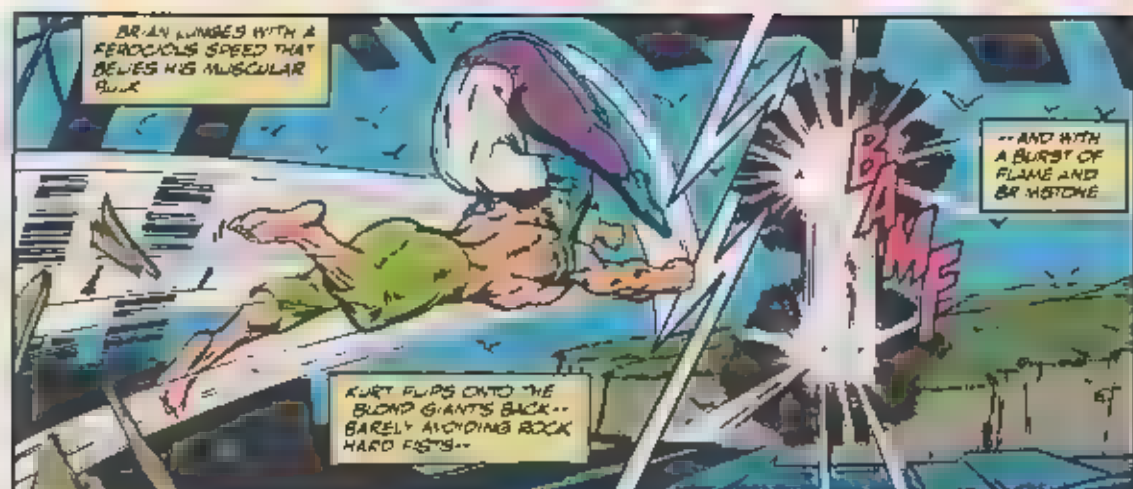


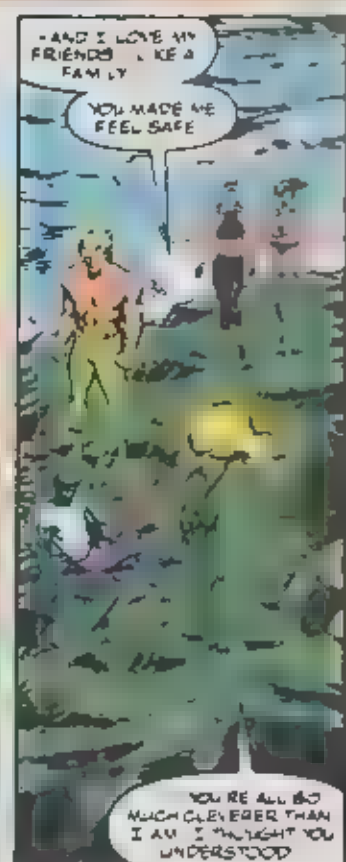
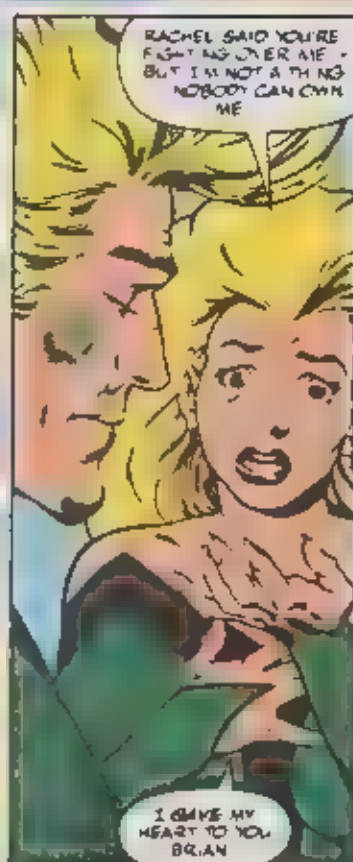
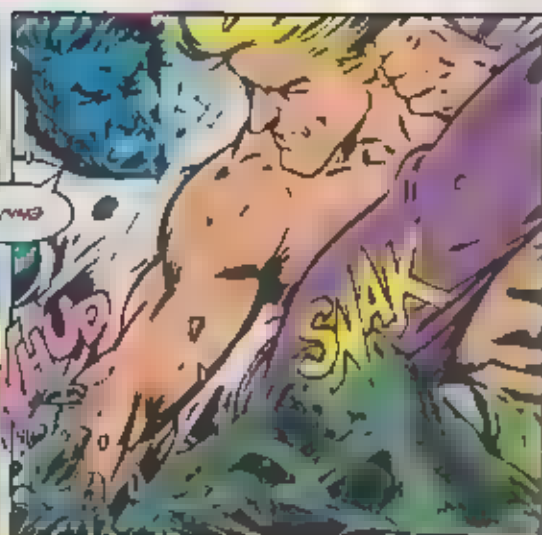
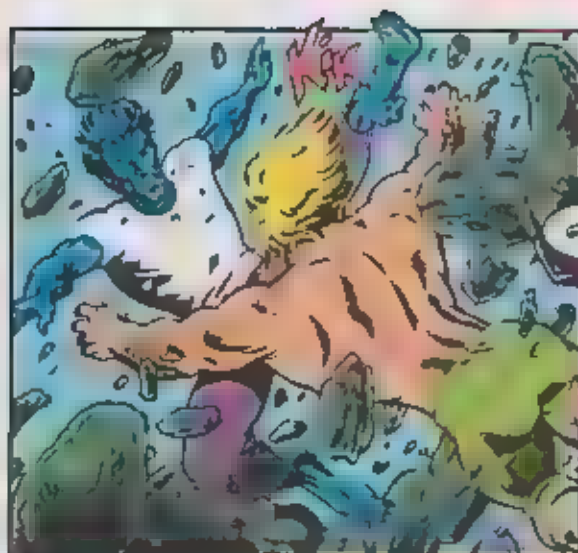


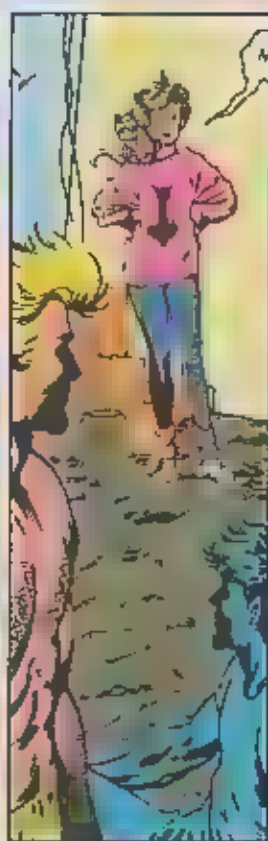
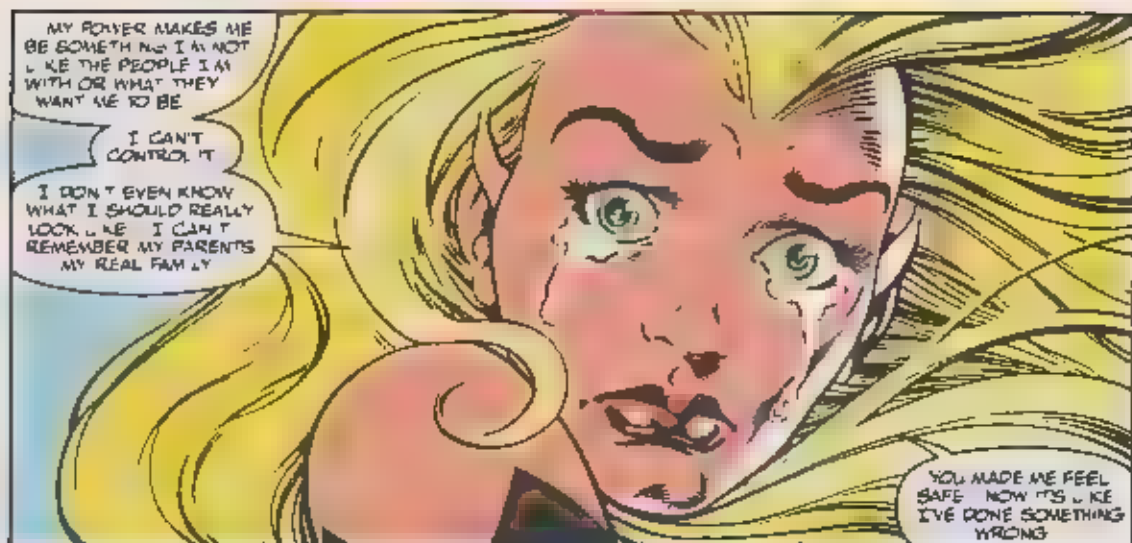














DOES YOUR
LEG HURT?



JA



I'M SORRY
I'VE A TENDENCY
TO HAVE A VOLATILE
TEMPER -
POSITIVELY
VOLCANIC WHEN
I'M TIRED.

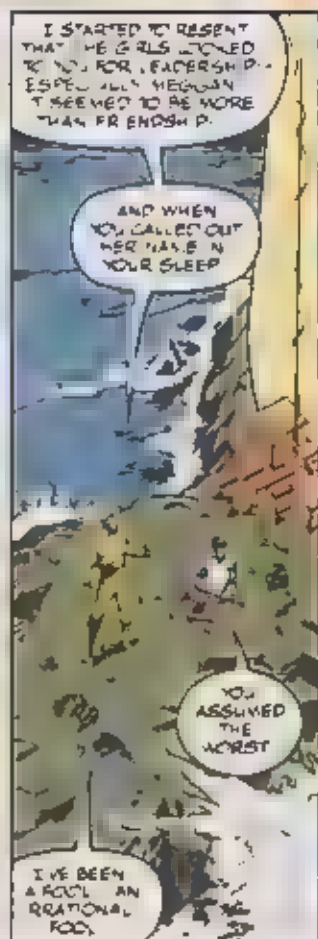
NO - IT'S
MORE THAN
THAT



WHEN I WAS INDEPENDENT I FELT
COMPETENT, EFFECTIVE, IN CONTROL.

-BUT SINCE EXCALIBUR
TEAMED UP I'VE HAD OCCASION
TO DOUBT MY ABILITIES. AT
TIMES I FELT I COULD DO
NOTHING RIGHT.

MY PRIDE
WAS DENTED AND
MY CONFIDENCE
ERODED.



I STARTED TO RESENT
THAT THE GIRLS LOOKED
TO YOU FOR LEADERSHIP.
ESPECIALLY MEGAN.
IT SEEMED TO BE MORE
THAN FRIENDSHIP.

AND WHEN
YOU CALLED OUT
HER NAME IN
YOUR SLEEP.

YOU
ASSUMED
THE
WORST.

I'VE BEEN
A FOOL, AN
IRRATIONAL
FOOL.



NOT SO YOUR INSTINCTS
WERE CORRECT. I FOUND
MYSELF ATTRACTED TO
MEGGAN FROM THE FIRST
WE MET.

WHO WOULD NOT BE?
OR IN REALITY FALLS TO
TANT HER INNOCENT
ENTHUSIASM - THAT
TEST FOR LIFE'S
HYPOCRISY.



...SO CLOSE TO
OUR OWN, YET SO
VERY DIFFERENT--

A BIZARRE PROCESSION
WENDS ITS WAY ACROSS
THE FROZEN WASTELANDS
OF EE'RATH.

NECROM'S DRUID
ACOLYTES AND THEIR
ARMORED RETINUE
FLANK A MYSTICAL
SPHERE.

SHACKLED WITHIN--
THE PRINCESS
SA'THEEN-- SOLE
SURVIVOR OF A
REGAL DYNASTY...
LAST OF THE MIGHTY
SORCERESS
SISTERHOOD...

...NOW A HERE
SACRIFICE
DESTINED FOR
NECROM'S
BLOODY ALTAR.

BUT THE TYRANT'S
APPETITE WILL NOT
BE APPREASED THIS
DAY--

ATTACK!

EARRK!

BLURCH!



MY GUARDS FALL QUICKLY BEFORE THE REBEL HORDE BUT YOU WILL NOT BE SAVED, WITCH...



...NOW DIEEARRK!!



KYLIN!

YOU DIDN'T THINK I'D LET YOU DOWN, PRINCESS?

NO, NEVER...



HURRAH!!



THE ARMY GROWS DAILY. IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME TILL WE WIN BACK YOUR THRONE--

MY THRONE IS OF SCANT IMPORT. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE NOW...

...NECROM PLUMBES NEW DEPTHS OF INSANITY WITH A SORCEROUS COUP THAT THREATENS ALL OF CREATION.



WE WILL DEFEAT HIM, SA'THEEN. WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS...THE GOOD GUYS ALWAYS WIN.

I PRAY YOU ARE RIGHT...OR THE WHOLE MULTIVERSE MAY PERISH!

NEXT ISSUE: WITLESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

SWORD STROKES

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
MARK POWERS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I have never felt compelled to write to a comic, but I can't help myself now. Issue #41 (did someone leave the number off?), "The Changeling," was a wonderful piece of work. The painted (I believe it's painted — I'm not a true art critic, but I know what I like!) scenes in were breathtaking. The glowing, fairy-tale nature of the coloring complemented the supernatural story very well.

The story was also a real treat. It helped reinforce the larger-than-life qualities of the team. Excalibur has typically been a group that everybody could feel comfortable with. The traditional "I like Kitty" letters are evidence of this. In particular I liked the fact that Captain Britain was forced to look back to his roots. I enjoyed the CAPTAIN BRITAIN Trade Paperback, but I would like to see more character development for him in the here and now. Kitty, Nightcrawler, and the rest are intelligent people. They wouldn't just hang around the drunken, hot-tempered set we have seen so far in the series. (Oh! Oh! They're fighting evil with him, but so are many other people!) "The Changeling" appears to open up a good direction of growth for Cap. Please let it continue.

I'm sure I will like the return of Alan Davis in the next issue!

Grant Smith
1510 Turner Drive #4
Pullman, WA 99163

No, Grant, no one left the number off "The Changeling"! That beautiful story was this year's EXCALIBUR SPECIAL! And yes, you're right — it was fully painted by the very talented Paul Mounts. Watch for insights into all the individuals who make up Excalibur as Alan Davis works his way back into everyone's heart. And prepare for some startling revelations about "The Changeling", as well...

Even though this issue of EXCALIBUR wasn't a part of the regular continuity, it certainly prompted lots o' letters! So let's take a moment here to review a small sampling of opinions...

Mr. Kavanagh,

This is a short note to express how pleased I was with your EXCALIBUR SPECIAL. The artwork by Morgan and Mounts was the highlight of the story. I hope they can do more work with EXCALIBUR, perhaps when Mr. Davis and Mr. Farmer are over-worked. That was some of the best artwork I've ever seen.

But great art doesn't mean much to me without a good story; this had that, too. A beginning, a middle, and an end. Great job, Mr. Higgins.

David Hodgkins
(Address withheld Upon Request)

Dear Sword Strokes,

Upon returning home, as I usually do with new comics, I leafed through them to check out the artwork and to skim through the story. When I opened up the EXCALIBUR SPE-

CIAL for July, I saw immediately that it was indeed special!

I haven't even really read the issue yet, but I was compelled to write in immediately to say something about it. In particular — kudos to Tom Morgan and Paul Mounts for the excellent (one might even say fantabulous) artwork and coloring. Their work lends the story an almost 3-D quality — which is pretty darn good, considering that with my eye problems (glasses), 3-D doesn't work well.

Finally, I hope, I hope, that we the readers will get more of an opportunity to see more of Morgan and Mounts's work in future EXCALIBUR issues!

Hilary Clark
18050 Wilbur Way
Seattle, WA 98177

Hey Terry,

EXCALIBUR: THE POSSESSION was a damn fine effort.

Michael Higgins's story was good.

Tom Morgan's visuals were nice.

And Paul Mounts's hues were stunning.

I've loved his work since it first appeared in some First Comics titles a few years back, and I'm pleased that he's now associated with Marvel. I'd love to see him take over the monthly EXCALIBUR title.

Also, the inside back cover was a cool yet fairly subtle nod of the head towards Alan Davis's return to the series.

Elvis Otten
17650 Dawson Rd.
Dewson Springs, KY 42408

Well, there you have it, folks. A very special EXCALIBUR SPECIAL on all counts! Thanks for all the complementary letters!

Now on to our usual letters page fare. First, a reminder that we received mounds of mail begging us to feature everyone's favorite purple dragon, Lockheed, more — and to give him his own solo story. Mail such as this very recently received letter:

Dear Sword Strokes,

This is the first time I've written to a comic, but I agree with that kid in Sword Strokes in issue #37 that Lockheed should have his own solo story. And I wish that Lockheed could have a place in the corner box.

It would be gnarly if this was printed! So until Nightcrawler teleports into a brick wall, Mike Mike Marvel!

Robert Muniz
2709 Clifford
Hartlingen, TX 78550

And you weren't the only one who felt this way, Robert! So issue #40 rolls around...

Dear Sword Strokes,

Thank you all for taking part. Issue forty was a true work of art.

After recently finishing forty, I must say that I found it quite sporty. Lockheed, we hardly know 'im. Such an intelligent chap with a poem. To some he brings a sense of fear. Yet his tongue is pleasant to the ear. His heart belongs to Kitty Pryde. She'd do anything to protect his hide. He respects his friends of Excalibur. And they do him, of they know not where. I do hope the chap pulls through. For what shall beautiful Kitty Pryde do? Congratulations, staff, on a job well done! Let us hope Lockheed's little battle is won.

I thank you for taking a moment of time. To kindly read this little rhyme. I do so hope that you will print it. So that other fans will also read it. Good luck to Lockheed, Good will, and Godspeed.

John Floss Harvey
77 Fern Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M6R 1K2

But well! Read on...

Dear Sword Strokes,
DON'T KILL LOCKHEED OR I'LL BE
EXTREMELY PEEVED!!!!!!!!!!!!

Lisa Simon
179 West Shore Dr.
Marblehead, MA 01945

Lord Lobdell & Minstrel Badger — poets at large?

Ah! The evils of rhyme have once more been exhibited. Sadly, forty was no more than insipid. I fear that Lockheed will n'er be the same. Now that you've made this hip dragon insipid, in the future, please don't mess with the Gods; Instead, let Excalibur lead you inwards. This team has a soul and a voice. If you don't follow, you leave me no choice. Excalibur is not moronic melodrama. Indeed, it is my sanity, controller of trauma. I think that I've made my point painfully clear. Lockheed is not a greeting card, but friend — true and dear.

Kara Bakka
3417 3rd Ave. S.
Great Falls, MI 59405

Does this give you some idea of the strong opinions readers expressed about issue #40? Geez — we were sure it was just what everyone wanted! Oh, well... sigh...

We would like to thank both John Ross and Kara for responding in kind. For we most certainly enjoyed reading your rhyme!